

## SECTION 18

### HOUSEBOAT GOALS AND POLICIES

St. Louis County Planning Commission Public Hearings:

August 14, 1986  
September 11, 1986

St. Louis County Board Public Hearings:

November 24, 1986  
May 26, 1987

Adopted and made effective:  
May 26, 1987

## HOUSEBOAT GOALS AND POLICIES

**GOAL:** Houseboats are recognized as an important part of the County's tourism industry. They play a valuable role in providing recreation activity for both renters and owners of boats. It is in the public interest to insure that houseboats, whenever similarities warrant it, should be treated the same as any other resort in the County. Therefore, the following policies are established by St. Louis County to govern existing and future houseboat rental businesses, to ensure that they are sited, developed, and conducted in a manner compatible with other recreational and commercial uses of the County's waterbodies, and to protect the public's health, safety, and welfare.

**Policy 1:** Commercial houseboat operations, either new or expansions of existing operations, shall be required to follow the same criteria for conditional use approval found in the County Zoning Ordinance for all conditional use permits. Neighborhood for the purpose of commercial houseboat operations shall include the entire waterbody which the boats will operate in.

**Policy 2:** Upon adoption of these policies all existing houseboat operations shall be inventoried to determine the number of houseboats each operation has, and upon determining the number the County shall, in writing, notify the operator of the number of houseboats indicated in the inventory. This number shall serve as the base number for future expansion. All future expansion in the number of houseboats shall be in conformance with these policies. Only boats currently stationed at the resort and boats ordered for delivery within three months may be included in the inventory.

**Policy 3:** Commercial houseboat operations are eligible for the same long range plan considerations as other resorts; therefore, commercial houseboat operations shall either:

1. Obtain a Conditional Use Permit for every houseboat addition over the inventoried number; or
2. Obtain approval of a long range plan as a conditional use which would enable expansion without additional conditional use permits.

- Policy 4: All new commercial houseboats including replacement boats, fleet expansions, or new operations shall meet the following minimum standards. The Planning Commission may through its long range plan review or conditional use review require additional standards to be followed. (Replacement boats do not require a conditional use permit.)
- a. All boats shall have effective communications with the base operation.
  - b. Kitchen sink wastewater shall be stored on the boat in a manner approved by St. Louis County. All other greywater is not required to be stored. The houseboat owner is encouraged to provide the user with a sufficient supply of low-phosphorus soap.
- Policy 5: There has not been shown a need, to date, to have surface water zoning which would affect houseboats or any other type of watercraft. Therefore, there shall be no requirements as to the mooring of boats near private docks, beaches, etc., or any other surface water control.
- Policy 6: Resorts including houseboat rental operations shall distribute safety and lake information to boat renters.
- Policy 7: St. Louis County encourages the State of Minnesota to develop necessary rules and statutes that would require storage of kitchen sink wastewater on boats used within the state.
- Policy 8: St. Louis County encourages the State and Federal governments to establish mooring areas for houseboats and other similar craft at dispersed locations throughout Lake Vermilion and other major St. Louis County lakes.

## EFFECTUATION

- Section 1 - This amendment to Ordinance 27, identified as Article II, Section 18 Houseboat Goals and Policies, shall take effect and be in full force on the 26th day of May, 1987, upon its adoption by the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners.
- Section 2 - Public hearings were held by the St. Louis County Planning Commission on August 14 and September 11, 1986.
- Section 3 - Recommended by the Planning Commission to the County Board for adoption on September 11, 1986 and April 9, 1987.
- Section 4 - St. Louis County Board of Commissioners held hearings on November 24, 1986 and May 26, 1987.
- Section 5 - Commissioner Kron moved the adoption of this amendment and Commissioner Lamppa duly seconded the motion, and it was adopted on the following vote:

Yeas: Commissioners Doty, Krueger, Kron, Lamppa, Prebich, Janezich, and  
Chairman Shannon - 7

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

This ordinance was declared adopted by the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners on the 26th day of May, 1987.

A. LLOYD SHANNON  
Chairman, County Board

Certified as a complete and accurate copy of  
Ordinance No. 27, Article II, Section 18

RUSSELL PETERSEN  
Russell Petersen, County Auditor

ATTEST  
KAREN ERICKSON  
Karen Erickson  
Clerk of the County Board